JS 44 (Rev. 10/20)

Case 2:21-cv-04443-BN/SLL Decrept SHF in a 10/08/21 Page 1 of 16

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

| I. (a) PLAINTIFFS | | | | DEFENDANTS | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| ANGEL GRANT | | | | KLS LOGISTICS | | | | | |
| (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Philadelphia | | | | County of Residence of First Listed Defendant | | | | | |
| (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) | | | | (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF | | | | | |
| (-) | | | | | | LAND INVOLVED. | | | |
| | Address, and Telephone Number Law Offices of Eric | | | Attorneys (If Know. | n) | | | | |
| 1500 JFK Blvd S | | A. OHOIC | | | | | | | |
| Philadelphia, PA | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| II. BASIS OF JURISD | ICTION (Place an "X" in (| One Box Only) | III. CI | | | NCIPAL PARTIES | 1 | | |
| 1 U.S. Government | | Citize | | | | | DEF | | |
| 2 U.S. Government Defendant | 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III) | | Citizo | en of Another State | 2 | | d Principal Place n Another State | 5 | 5 |
| | | | | Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | | 3 Groeign Nation 6 | | 6 | |
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| VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO | 42 U.S.C. | A. § 2000e-2(a) | | , | | | | | |
| VI. CAUSE OF ACTION | Brief description of ca | սse։ Race Discriminat | ion | | | | | | |
| VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: | | IS A CLASS ACTION | | EMAND \$ | | CHECK YES on JURY DEMAN | · ~ | n complai | |
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Case 2:21-cv-04443-BMS Document 1 Filed 10/08/21 Page 2 of 16

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

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| ANGEL GRANT | v. KLS LOGISTICS | : : : : | CIVIL ACTION NO. | |
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| SELECT ONE OF T | HE FOLLOWING CA | ASE MANAG | SEMENT TRACKS: | |
| (a) Habeas Corpus – C | Cases brought under 28 | U.S.C. § 224 | 1 through § 2255. | () |
| (b) Social Security – C and Human Service | Cases requesting review es denying plaintiff So | of a decision of a Security | of the Secretary of Health Benefits. | () |
| (c) Arbitration – Cases | s required to be design | ated for arbitr | ation under Local Civil Rule 53.2. | () |
| (d) Asbestos – Cases i exposure to asbesto | | rsonal injury | or property damage from | () |
| commonly referred | to as complex and that erse side of this form | at need special | s (a) through (d) that are or intense management by explanation of special | () |
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| 10/8/2021 | 7-10 | | Plaintiff | |
| Date | Attorney-a | ıt-law | Attorney for | |
| 215-944-6113 | 215-944-61 | 24 | BrianD@ericshore.com | |

FAX Number

E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Telephone

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

| Address of Plaintiff: 37 North Ithan Street | | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------------|--|--|
| Address of Defendant: 11601 Roosevelt Blvd, Philadelphia F | PA 19154 | | | | |
| Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:11601 Roosevelt B | | 9154 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| RELATED CASE, IF ANY: | | | | | |
| Case Number: Judge: | | Date Terminated: | | | |
| Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following | g questions: | | | | |
| 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pen previously terminated action in this court? | ding or within one year | Yes | No X | | |
| 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same to pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? | ansaction as a prior suit | Yes | No X | | |
| Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action | | Yes | No X | | |
| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appearase filed by the same individual? | l, or pro se civil rights | Yes | No X | | |
| I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is / is not related this court except as noted above. | to any case now pending or v | within one year previously | y terminated action in | | |
| DATE:10/8/2021 | | 319475 (F | PA) | | |
| FLORE 65 (61.40) | w / Pro Se Plaintiff | Attorney I.L |). # (if applicable) | | |
| CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only) | | | | | |
| A. Federal Question Cases: | B. Diversity Jurisdiction (| Cases. | | | |
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ANGEL GRANT :

37 North Ithan Street

Philadelphia, PA 19139 : JURY DEMANDED

Plaintiff, :

v. :

: No.

KLS LOGISTICS :

11601 Roosevelt Blvd. : Philadelphia, PA 19154 :

imadeipina, FA 19134

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

And now Plaintiff, ANGEL GRANT, by and through her undersigned counsel, files this Complaint alleging that her rights, pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII"), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, *et seq.*, the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 ("Section 1981"), 42 U.S.C. § 1981, and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Action ("PHRA"), 43 P.S. § 951, *et seq.* have been violated and avers as follows:

PARTIES

A. The Plaintiff

1. Plaintiff, Angel Grant, ("Grant" or "Plaintiff") is an adult individual residing in Philadelphia County at 37 North Ithan Street; Philadelphia, PA 19139.

B. The Defendant

2. Defendant, KLS Logistics ("KLS" or "Defendant") is a business entity located in Philadelphia County at 11601 Roosevelt Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19154.

3. At all times, Defendant employed more than 20 individuals and met the statutory definition of an "employer" as defined by Title VII, ADEA, ADA, and PHRA.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4 This Complaint alleges discrimination on the basis of Grant's race, color, and sexual orientation, in violation of Title VII, on the basis of Grant's race, in violation of Section 1981, on the basis of Grant's actual and/or apparent disability, in violation of the ADA, and on the basis of Grant's age, in violation of the ADEA.
- 5. This Complaint further alleges retaliation on the basis of Grant's good faith complaint of discrimination, in violation of Title VII and ADA.
 - 6. Declaratory relief is sought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.
- 7. This Honorable Court has jurisdiction of this matter, case and controversy pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343(a)(4) and 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(f).
- 8. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to these claims occurred in this Judicial District.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

- 9. On or about July 7, 2021, Grant filed a Charge of Discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), which was docketed as EEOC Charge No. 530-2021-04091 alleging discrimination and wrongful discharge from her employment due to the actions of Defendant.
- 10. Grant has been advised of her individual right to bring a civil action by receiving a Notice of Rights from the EEOC, dated August 2, 2021 (attached hereto as Exhibit "A").

11. Grant has exhausted the administrative remedies available to her, and all necessary and appropriate administrative prerequisites to the filing of this Complaint have occurred and been satisfied.

OPERATIVE FACTS

- 12. Defendant hired Grant on July 27, 2020 to work as a Transportation Supervisor at its facility located at 11601 Roosevelt Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19154.
- 13. Grant is also an openly gay African-American woman, who is disabled with arthritis, and who was born in 1972.
- 14. Grant's arthritis substantially limits one or more of Grant's major life activities, as it impacts Grant's mobility and causes Grant significant pain. Accordingly, Grant walks with a noticeable and pronounced limp.
- 15. Nevertheless, Grant is able to meet the performance expectations as Defendant's Transportation Supervisor.
- 16. Upon being hired by Defendant, Grant's supervisor, Joshua Scott, failed to adequately train Grant.
- 17. Whenever Grant requested assistance or training from Scott, Scott gave the appearance of being busy.
- 18. Conversely, Scott routinely trained Grant's younger, Caucasian, and straight colleague, Braden Bettineschi.
- 19. In January 2021, Defendant issued Grant a negative performance review that inaccurately reflected Grant's job performance.

- 20. When Grant contested the performance review, she informed Defendant that she had not been adequately trained. However, Defendant continued to fail to provide Grant with training for her position.
- 21. Shortly after receiving the poor performance evaluation, Grant noticed that Defendant's management began monitoring her bathroom breaks.
- 22. Defendant did not subject Grant's younger, straight, non-disabled, Caucasian, colleagues.
- 23. In or around February 2021, Grant approached Scott and asked Scott why her bathroom breaks were being monitored. Grant asked Scott words to the effect of, "it is because of my mobility issues, or is it because I'm gay, or is it because I'm black?"
- 24. Scott told Grant that none of those characteristics were factors in Defendant's actions, but Scott promised Grant that he would investigate her complaint.
- 25. Thereafter, Grant was directed to meet with Human Resources Manager Julie Marino. In response, Grant expressed concern that she was being targeted for retaliation.
- 26. Approximately two-weeks later, on February 12, 2021, Defendant terminated Grant's employment.
- 27. When Grant asked Marino why she was being terminated, Marino indicated that she did not have a termination letter prepared because she was unsure how Grant's termination would be classified under Defendant's policy.
- 28. According to Grant's coworker, Marino latter referred to Grant as "one of those people" which Grant believes refers to her sexual orientation, race, disability-status, or age.
- 29. Marino also stated in the presence of Grant's coworker that Defendant would never have hired Grant if she had been interviewed in-person.

4

- 30. Defendant's management also made frequent disparaging remarks about Grant's limited mobility and intentionally refused to assign Grant work that she was qualified to perform, notwithstanding her disability.
- 31. Accordingly, Grant believes that the actual reason Defendant's termination of her employment is based on her race, sexual orientation, disability status, and/or age.
- 32. Alternatively, Grant avers that Defendant terminated her employment in retaliation for making a good faith complaint regarding disability, race, and sexual orientation discrimination.

COUNT I TITLE VII - RACE DISCRIMINATION 42 U.S.C.A. § 2000e-2(a)

- 33. Grant incorporates the above paragraphs as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 34. Grant's status as being African-American places her in the protected class of race.
- 35. Grant's membership in a protected class was motivating factors in Defendant's decision to terminate her employment.
 - 36. Grant suffered disparate treatment by Defendant, as set forth above.
- 37. As such, Defendant's decision to subject Grant to adverse employment action employment is an unlawful employment practice under 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(a).
- 38. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Grant sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, mental anguish, humiliation, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Grant has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

- 39. As a result of the conduct of Defendant's management, Grant demands punitive damages.
- 40. Grant demands attorney's fees and court costs under the Section 704(a) of the Title VII, 42 U.S.C. §2000e-3(a), et seq.

COUNT II TITLE VII – SEXUAL ORIENTATION DISCRIMINATION 42 U.S.C.A. § 2000e-2(a)

- 41. Grant incorporates the above paragraphs as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 42. Grant's status as being a gay woman her in the protected class of gender and/or sexual orientation.
- 43. Grant's membership in a protected class was a motivating factor in Defendant's decision to terminate her employment.
 - 44. Grant suffered disparate treatment by Defendant, as set forth above.
- 45. As such, Defendant's decision to subject Grant to adverse employment actions is an unlawful employment practice under 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(a).
- 46. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Grant sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, mental anguish, humiliation, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Grant has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.
- 47. As a result of the conduct of Defendant's management, Plaintiff demands punitive damages.

48. Plaintiff demands attorney's fees and court costs under the Section 704(a) of the Title VII, 42 U.S.C. §2000e-3(a), et seq.

COUNT III TITLE VII - RETALIATION 42 U.S.C.A. § 2000e-2(a)

- 49. Grant incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if set forth more fully at length herein.
- 50. At set forth above, Grant made complaints about racial and gender discrimination and harassing conduct in workplace and as such, Grant was engaged in protected activity under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.
 - 51. Defendant took adverse action against Grant by terminating her employment.
- 52. As set forth above, Grant's participation in protected activity was the cause of Defendant's decision to terminate her employment.
- 53. As such, Defendant's decision to terminate Grant's employment is a retaliatory action prohibited by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, §704(a).
- 54. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Grant sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, mental anguish, humiliation, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Grant has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.
- 55. As a result of the conduct of Defendant's management, Grant demands punitive damages.
 - 56. Pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, §704(a), 42 U.S.C. §2000e-3(a),

et seq., Grant demands attorneys' fees and court costs.

COUNT IV AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT DISPARATE TREATMENT

- 57. Grant incorporates the above paragraphs as if they were set forth at length herein.
- 58. Based on the foregoing, Grant alleges that Defendant violated the ADA by subjecting her to discrimination on the basis of her actual and/or perceived disabilities and/or records of impairment.
- 59. Defendant's conduct caused Grant to sustain significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, loss of tips as well as emotional distress, mental anguish, humiliation, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Grant has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.
- 60. Grant prays that Defendant be required to provide all appropriate remedies available under the ADA.

COUNT V AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT RETALIATION

- 61. Grant incorporates the above paragraphs as if they were set forth at length herein.
- 62. Based on the foregoing, Grant alleges that Defendant violated the ADA by retaliating against her for making complaints of disability discrimination.
- 63. Defendant's conduct caused Grant to sustain significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, loss of tips as well as emotional distress, mental

anguish, humiliation, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Grant has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

64. Grant prays that Defendant be required to provide all appropriate remedies available under the ADA.

COUNT VI SECTION 1981 - DISCRIMINATION

- 65. Grant incorporates the above paragraphs as if fully set forth at length herein.
 - 66. Grant's status as an African-American places her in the protected class of race.
- 67. Grant's membership in a protected class was a motivating factor in Defendant's decision to subject Plaintiff to adverse employment actions.
 - 68. Grant suffered disparate treatment by Defendant, as set forth above.
- 69. Defendant subjected Grant to intentional discrimination based on her race and ethnic characteristics. Specifically, Defendant's intentional discrimination was based on the fact that Grant is African-American.
- 70. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Grant sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, mental anguish, humiliation, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Grant also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Angel Grant, demands judgment in her favor and against Defendant, in an amount in excess of \$150,000.00 together with:

- A. Compensatory damages, including but not limited to: back pay, front pay, past lost wages, future lost wages. Lost pay increases, lost pay incentives, lost opportunity, lost benefits, lost future earning capacity, injury to reputation, mental and emotional distress, pain and suffering
- B. Attorneys' fees and costs of suit;
- C. Punitive damages;
- D. Interest, delay damages; and,
- E. Any other further relief this Court deems just proper and equitable.

LAW OFFICES OF ERIC A. SHORE, P.C.

BY: /s/ Brian M. Doyle (PA Id. 319475)

BRIAN M. DOYLE, ESQUIRE
Two Penn Center
1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 1240
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attorney for Plaintiff, Angel Grant

Date:_____

VERIFICATION

I hereby verify that the statements contained in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 P.A.C.S § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

| 10/08/2021 | Assure Stant 6 2 1 has 4 10-49-3 active with 0104391 |
|------------|--|
| Date | Angel Grant |

EXHIBIT

A

EEOC Form 161 (11/2020)

Westerville, OH 43082

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

| | | DISMISSAL AND IN | | 1301110 | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | l Grant orth Ithan Street delphia, PA 19139 | | From: | Philadelphia Distri 801 Market Street Suite 1000 Philadelphia, PA 1 | | |
| | | erson(s) aggrieved whose identity is AL (29 CFR §1601.7(a)) | | | | |
| EEOC Charg | e No. | EEOC Representative | | | Telephone No. | |
| | | Legal Unit, | | | | |
| 530-2021- | | Legal Technician | | | (267) 589-9707 | |
| THE EEO | | E ON THIS CHARGE FOR T | | | | |
| | The facts alleged in the | charge fail to state a claim under | r any of the s | statutes enforced by the | EEOC. | |
| | Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act. | | | | | |
| | The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes. | | | | | |
| | Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge | | | | | |
| X | The EEOC issues the following determination: The EEOC will not proceed further with its investigation, and makes no determination about whether further investigation would establish violations of the statute. This does not mean the claims have no merit. This determination does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. The EEOC makes no finding as to the merits of any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge. | | | | | |
| | The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge. | | | | | |
| | Other (briefly state) | | | | | |
| | | - NOTICE OF S | | | | |
| Discrimina You may fil lawsuit mus lost. (The ti | tion in Employment as a lawsuit against the st be filed WITHIN 90 me limit for filing suit bact (EPA): EPA suits | sabilities Act, the Genetic In Act: This will be the only notice respondent(s) under federal DAYS of your receipt of the ased on a claim under state later that he had been as the filed in federal or state. | ce of dismis law based of is notice; of w may be of e court with | esal and of your right on this charge in fede or your right to sue ba different.) in 2 years (3 years fo | to sue that we will send you. eral or state court. Your sed on this charge will be r willful violations) of the | |
| | file suit may not be o | means that backpay due for collectible. | any violati | ons that occurred <u>m</u> | ore than 2 years (3 years) | |
| | | On behali | f of the Com | mission | | |
| | | Dana Rhutto | _ | | | |
| Enclosures/= | 1 | | | | 08/02/2021 | |
| Enclosures(s |) | Dana R. Deputy I | • | | (Date Issued) | |
| Le Dh | :Kenzie McElroy gal Counsel - Global IL SUPPLY CHAIN 0 Westar Boulevard | Business Services | | OFFICES OF ERIC A lfk Blvd | . SHORE | |

Philadelphia, PA 19102